
The UNION STANDARD

April 2004

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The Newsletter of the 1st United States Infantry, The Regulars

Dispatch from the Board

In conjunction with the final commander's meeting, Gregg, John, and I spent last Saturday reconnoitering the terrain at Cross Timbers. The grass is short, the weather was perfect, and after tramping for miles and miles back and forth (Ok it really wasn't that far) no creatures with legs and exoskeletons (that's bugs, chiggers etc. for you non scientific types)) were evident except for a few mosquitoes in the woods. The reconnaissance revealed numerous places where we can give the johnnies a run for their money even though we are likely to be outnumbered. Add to that the able assistance of Micky Whites cavalry (remember the good work they did at the Grasslands last year) and we should be in for a really good time. We personally picked our camping spot. It's about ¼ mile away from the hustle and bustle of the settlers, rebs, civilians, and cavalry. Nice level ground, accessible by vehicles and with our own supply of split wood, water, and port-a-potty. This is our main event this spring. We've been involved in the planning for some time and have had a good say in how things are run militarily. You won't want to miss this one! There will be something for everyone. Henry shooters – this is a good warm up for Franklin.

That afternoon the above were joined by Brad Walsh and John Hemmet (new member) to help split and put out wood for all the camps. I should even mention Pete Graham who managed to get there just as we were finishing up.

Of course this didn't stop him from comparing notes with lawyer Zelenski. The other part of Saturday's workday was the bullet making. They probably could have used a bit more help but Don Rogers showed up to help Kip and Ted pour over 600 mini balls for the live fire.

In May the unit will meet for a cartridge rolling session. We need to turn those 600 bullets into rolled cartridges as well as prepare cartridge blanks for Franklin in October.

Get ready for the first weekend in June. Our annual live fire will be held at Fort Chadbourne. Fort Chadbourne is located south of Abilene and is closer than McKavett. Chadbourne has a 500+ yard range so the firing should be interesting to say the least. There is lots of room to allow us to do live firing under much more tactical conditions. The real 1st closed down Chadbourne in 1861.

We had a good turnout at Beaumont last month and we managed to pick up some strong recruit possibilities. We expect to be in even greater force at Cross Timbers and need to fill two companies of 17 rifles each. Counting staff and recruiters we need at least 40 of us there.

See you at Gainesville,

Don Gross



DIRECTIONS TO CROSS TIMBERS

Take I-35 north through **Gainesville**.

On the north side of Gainesville, take exit 501. It will take a right 270 degree turn back over I-35 and put you on CR 1202.

From the I-35 overpass, it will be 2 miles to the site. Look for the large concrete water tank. The road makes a sharp right turn; you make a left onto the gravel road through the cow fence. The entrance to the site is a short way on the right. Reenactor parking is inside the fence. To get to our camp go through the modern vendors, settlers and civilian camp. Our camp is approximately ¼ mile north of all the hub-bub. Follow the tracks through a small cut, we're on a flat area near the heavy tree line.

1st U.S. Calendar

2004

APRIL

16th, 17th, 18th **Cross Timbers** – Gainesville Texas

23-25th *Texas Frontier Forts Muster – Fort Worth Stockyards (Recruiting)*

MAY

8th **Cartridge Rolling** – 9:30 7505 Chapel Ave, Fort Worth

8th *Boy Scout Show – Dallas Market Hall (Recruiting)*

22nd *Bellmeade – Waco Texas*

JUNE

4th, 5th, 6th **Fort Chadbourne** – Live Fire

SEPTEMBER

TBD Drill

OCTOBER

1st- 3rd **Franklin TN, 1st Federal Division NATIONAL EVENT**

*Note: **Bold** are scheduled maximum effort events. Italicized dates are available events or recruiting activities.*

Recruiting Post

by George Hansen

John Hemmert, who was recruited at the Irish Festival, attended the Beaumont Ranch reenactment and participated in Saturday's battle. He is a former reenactor circa 1979 and still has some gear. The powder and battle frenzy must have stirred fond memories as John expressed a desire to re-enlist. Conway Barton met former 1st U.S. members Tim Hickman and Sandy Peterson at Beaumont Ranch and both stated they missed the fun and want to re-up with the 1st. Good job Conway.

Alan Prendergast, Kevin Doughtie and Conway met Beaumont Ranch recruit, Jack Stanley, at Veterans Park in Arlington for a new recruit drill. Jack is a long time Civil War enthusiast,

thoroughly enjoyed the BR reenactment and said his wife has interest in the Civilian portion of the hobby. The First welcomes Jack to the ranks.

Plans are underway for upcoming opportunities so stay tuned if you wish to help. Again, if you haven't earned your Regiment "1" insignia, you must fulfill the recruiting requirement in order to receive that brass emblem.

Except for Gregg Benefiel no one has submitted recruiting suggestions to the Recruiting Sgt. Your ideas and proposals are needed so see me at Cross Timbers, or forward an e-mail note. Recent orders from HQ state, "Blue bodies are required to fill the recent 'casualties.'" *(Ah then, I know a couple of PICTS that could fit the bill...wode's the stuff to show men! Wode to scare your foemen! Boil it to, a brilliant blue, and rub it on your legs and your ab-do-men! Blue Bodies indeed.....mind ya now, still better than Damn Dutch Artillery I'd wager...McF)*

Mentors

Contact Regt. Sgt. Maj. Mike Beard if you'd like to try your hand as a mentor. Our new recruits need support and guidance as they seek to establish a foothold into the hobby. Even if you recently acquired your company letter, your expertise is needed. Mike can be reached at dotmike@sbcglobal.net, or (817) 446-7935.

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A note from a dear Comrade

Alan,

Please extend my sincerest appreciation to all of the pards in the First US for the framed picture and Get Well card. Both have been given their proper honor in our den, with my other precious memories from re-enacting. Your expression of concern is a welcomed tonic, even if Miss Tula didn't serve it herself.

As I write this I have 10 radiation treatments remaining. The prevailing side effect of my treatments is a 4 x 6" area of intense redness

surrounding my left ear, jaw and throat. It is beginning to dry out and I must keep lotion on it all during the day. Avoiding intense heat/prolonged sunlight is next on my list of things to do. Therefore, I am starting a "light-duty" position on Monday, March 29. I will be there at least 4 weeks. My final radiation is on Good Friday. "Dry Mouth" is the next form of casualty as the radiation has inhibited normal salivation, and the fact that the original tumor involved all of one of the salivary glands. The light at the end of this tunnel is that my Oncologist has stated that there is a 95% chance the cancer will never return by getting the radiation. The final effect is that my left ear is very sensitive and this makes it hard to sleep on that side, my favorite. One day..... Oh yeh, there is some hair loss to my left sideburn, the area immediately above my ear, and the whiskers on the left side. Those rascally "old men hairs" in my left ear are hanging on with great "alacrity" and tenacity.

I do look forward to each issue of our newsletter, and the emails. As soon as I am cleared to enjoy copious amounts of sunshine, and we get our baby graduated from high school, I look forward to sharing a campfire again, if only as a spectator. The hobby and the gentlemen involved been one of the high points of my life.

Your Pard in Spirit.....Steve Hardy

Cartridge Rolling

With the live fire at Fort Chadbourne less than two months away and the national event at Franklin, TN in October we are in dire need of putting up a goodly store of ammunition. We recently procured a supply of over 600 mini balls. We have the powder and paper required but are in dire need of the labor to assemble completed rounds.

With that in mind there will be a cartridge rolling party on May 8th starting at 9:30 AM. Location is 7505 Chapel Ave. Fort Worth. We

have enough room to handle everyone who can make it and help out.

If you've never rolled a *correct* live round now is the opportunity to learn how it's done. If you've never rolled blank cartridges now is the time to learn. For you guys who know how to do all this you can help the new guys along. Many hands make for little work.

If you have rolling supplies please bring them with you. **Refreshments** will be provided. A head count to Alan would be appreciated.

1st Federal Division News

March 10, 2004

Headquarters
1st Federal Division

Planning continues for the 140th Franklin event. From the 900 acres reported in December we now have over 1,400 acres. So we have room for a lot a movement and the battlefields will be amongst the biggest most of you and your men will have seen. Some of the items that are coming together that I can share with you include:

1. There will be 4 battles. One on Friday, two on Saturday, and one of Sunday.
2. Provisions are being made for those battalions/brigades that wish to sleep on arms Friday night on the original Spring Hill Battlefield (on a sad note, this original site will most likely be developed after the battle).
3. Saturday will be a full day of marching to the Spring Hill site, fighting a fairly involved battle, marching to the Franklin site and improving our trenches, fighting a late afternoon battle with CONTROLLED skirmishing/outpost until 11 p.m. Those battalions/brigades that desire may spend the night in the trenches.

4. Sunday will include the battle of Nashville, a resounding Union victory!
5. All profits will be put in saving what's left of the Franklin battlefield site.

And as I have told General Moore the Confederates have stolen a march on us. With the advantage of geography, their senior command has had a meeting on the site and I've seen nothing but excitement in their various reports. I hope that same excitement starts growing in the ranks of the 1st Federal Division and our friends. We have reports of several eastern units joining us, as well as some of our esteemed friends from the Midwest who have voted the Franklin event as a maximum effort. And Dana Heim, noted eastern commander, will be joining us in the field.

Posted elsewhere on this site you will find Flyer 1, 04. This is the first general release by the Division in regard to this event. Information in regard to the Franklin reenactment can be found on our website, at the NSA website, <http://www.nsalliance.org/> that includes a Bulletin Board where questions can be asked, and the official Battle of Franklin event site, <http://www.battleoffranklin.com/>.

I am establishing a committee to review and report back on a 5 year plan to be considered at the July NSA meeting. Planning events is getting harder with each year as land and sponsors with deep pockets are getting rare. These gentlemen will present this 5-year event to the Division's Board of Directors, who will then use it as a guide in discussing the future of NSA events.

As each day passes my thoughts focus on the challenges and possibilities ahead of us. Each soldier of the Division has a stake in where this Division goes and how it performs at events. I hope each of you is beginning to hear, see and feel the excitement that the challenge of the 140th Franklin/Nashville campaign presents us. I remain...

Your Obdn't Svt.,

Mark

Mark Dolive, Commanding,

1st Federal Division

“What did he say?”

By Alan Prendergast

Being as I occasionally take my job as 1st Sgt seriously, every once in a while I go over Casey's Infantry tactics to refresh my ever-dimming memory. (*to see what he's messed up on lately...McF*)

It's NOT “*Company – Attention!*”

It's “*Attention – Company*”. (*squad, section, platoon, whatever...*)

Anything to do with the Bayonet.

“*Fix, Charge or Unfix – Bayonets*” ...***all wrong***. Bayonet is a singular in ***all*** cases. “*Fix, Charge or Unfix – Bayonet*”.

Oddly enough, it is “*Spring – Rammers*”, but in 9-times, it's “*Return – Rammer*”

And finally the inevitable “*In Each Rank – Count Two*” is wrong, and should always be “*In Each Rank – Count Twos*”.

It is “*Cease – Firing*”, not “*Cease – Fire*” and I've heard people mumble there's no “***March***” after the command “*Route Step*”, but there is... (Casey's School of the Company, article 3).

“*Arms – At Will*”, we tend to think of as being associated with “*Route Step*” only, but it need not be, it's an arms change just like Shoulder, Support or Right Shoulder Shift. Finally the latest I've heard is that file closers have to maintain “*Shoulder Arms*” carry even if the rest of the company goes to some other carry. There's nothing in CASEY that says that, and there's ample *photographic* evidence that contradicts it as well (my particular favorite is a column of companys with ALL the men at the right shoulder shift).

*Headquarters
1st US Infantry
Fort Worth, Texas*

March 18, 2004

*Mrs. Rick Brockman
Wataga, Texas*

My Dear Mrs. Brockman,

On behalf of myself, the officers, and the men of the 1st US I offer our profound thanks for the national flag you presented to us at the recent muster at Fort Washita.

I have never seen a finer example of the symbol of our beloved country. The workmanship is exquisite. Rest assured that we are fully aware of the time and effort put into such an endeavor.

You can rest assured Mrs. Brockman that with this flag to lead us, the men will gladly suffer any manner of deprivations to ensure the ideals of our country that we are so valiantly striving to uphold will prevail.

May God bless.

*I remain your most humble servant,
Don Gross
Captain, Co. A
Commanding*

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*Headquarters
1st US Infantry
1st Btn, Frontier Brigade*

Special Order No. 04-02

April 3, 2004

Members of the 1st US are hereby directed to assemble in the field north of the City of Gainesville on or about 6 O'clock in the evening on April 16th. In the field we will be joined by other infantry, cavalry, and artillery detachments for the said purpose of establishing a presence in north Texas and to harass any secessionist forces in the area.

Members should report in heavy marching order with a minimum of 80 rounds. Excess rounds properly packaged and marked with name will be stored in the company ammunition boxes ready for re-supply.

The unit will bivouac approximately ¼ mile north by northwest of the newly established refugee tent city. The area is easily accessible by carriage. The area has short grass and a good supply of wood and water. Sanitary facilities are located unobtrusively but close enough for even those who suffer from the "quick-step". The men are urged to bring the minimal equipage to ensure their comfort in the field. The commanders fully understand that this means different things to different people but the weather in mid April would suggest that shelters, flys, or in the open will serve the men well. Of course having something to sit upon will greatly increase your comfort. The area is remarkably free of the normal vermin that can plague the men in the field however, a supply of repellant is recommended just in case.

Rations will be provided. Please forward \$5.00 in federal currency at your earliest opportunity to 1stSgt Prendergast to ensure that adequate supplies are requisitioned. Expect to eat "courtesy" of the local population on Saturday evening.

Men with the new Henry repeating rifles are urged to bring these. In addition all NCOs are authorized to carry pistols as well as their rifles. I fear we will need all the fire power we can get.

Excess baggage, rations, and arms above that needed for immediate use by individual soldiers may be carried in the wagon train. The camp will be struck on Sunday at noon.

This is a call to arms for all loyal members of the 1st. The veteran reserve and those recently wounded who may feel that they are not fit for a short campaign like this can rest assured that a place of honor, in keeping with their limitations, awaits all those who rally to our cause and your efforts will not go unnoticed.

I remain your humble servant.

*Don Gross
Captain, CoA
Commanding*

Abstract from *Infantry Tactics* As prepared by Winfield Scott

Before Scott transcribed Napoleonic manuals for US Army use, he served as chairman of a board charged with condensing or "abstracting" the tactics manual then in use. This manual provides a view of tactics, as they would have been used in the War of 1812.

SCHOOL OF THE COMPANY—LESSON I.

Remarks on Arms Port, Charge Bayonet, and Trail Arms.

466. When a battalion or line is to charge bayonet, the whole are, in the first instance, to come to *Arms—PORT*, and advance at a firm, quick step, but in the most perfect order possible, until they reach the enemy. (See No. 545.)

467. It is at that instant that the front rank are necessarily to bring their firelocks down to the charging position, and the whole are to press forward with the utmost energy. The enemy

being routed, It will depend on the officer commanding to give the word HALT; when the front rank will resume the position of *Arms—PORT*, and proceed as may be afterwards directed. But the word HALT is on no account to be given during a charge, or as preparatory to the front rank bringing the firelock down to the charging position. It is, therefore, to be understood, that, in the charge, or quick attack upon the enemy with fixed bayonets, either previous to, or after firing, (which usually commences at a distance of *one hundred*, or *one hundred and fifty* yards, as the ground may permit,) the charging position of the front rank is to be assumed only at the instant of attack or defense.

468. In cases such as passing through a thick wood, shouldered arms is impracticable; and a soldier has some times recourse to his firelock as a necessary support, as in climbing the steep sides of an eminence, and crossing ditches; it becomes, therefore, necessary that the instructor should sometimes make the soldiers practice the motions of *Arms—PORT*, and of *Trail—ARMS*, whilst marching, to teach them to avail themselves most advantageously of their firelocks, under different circumstances.

Editor's note: *Period drawing from the Civil War also show the rear ranks with Arms Port and only the front rank with bayonet leveled. One understands that frequently there's a deal of dramatic license in art (as demonstrated when renderings of Alexander the Grape at Issus show him wearing armor that looks to be borrowed from Edward V.), but the drawings rendered with the rear ranks at Port are frequent enough to make one believe it's not strictly the artist's imagining. Also I do have one photo of a company with the front rank at "Charge – Bayonet" and the rear ranks at Arms Port. One would presume for a photo op the men would have "known their business"*

Lessons From Lincoln

He opposed the Mexican War while he was in Congress, though he consistently voted for all the supplies needful for the army. To the argument that the war was not one of aggression he relied that it reminded him of the Illinois farmer who insisted: "I ain't greedy 'bout land. I only want what jines mine. "

And later on, though he accepted the results of the war with patriotic satisfaction, he was much pleased of its political opportunity and by the Whig nomination of General Taylor, and declared that that nomination "took the Democrats on their blind side".

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Newsletter Costs

Members who receive the newsletter by mail can help the First US save money by requesting a newsletter copy only by e-mail. The postage and printing costs will help the treasury pay for a needed national flag and other items essential to our impression. Should you wish to contribute to this goal contact G. Hansen at beast1st@comcast.net.

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Newsletter contributions - E-Mail/Mailing submissions to **The Union Standard** – d1stus@gte.net or C/O Alan Prendergast, 1403 Barclay Drive, Carrollton Texas, 75007

Newsletter – contact George Hansen if you did not receive your newsletter, beast1st@attbi.com or (972) 529-5349.

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